of educational and moral progress of a high and serious character.

To put the whole thing in a nutshell, Scouting is a moral force—a game perhaps, but a serious game, a matter (as Lord Rosebery has said) "of high importance, inspiring and uplifting every detail of a boy's life. It is a great fellowship, embodied to preserve and observe great principles—self-help and help to others, patriotism, loyalty, honor, faith and duty." At the end of 1913 there were close on to 200,000 Scouts of all ranks in the United Kingdom and in the Overseas Dominions. It is estimated that in foreign countries there are at least half a million. Of these, the greater number 300,000, are in the United States of America. In Germany there are over 50,000. There is not one of these hundreds of thousands of recruits but has felt an influence, such as the ordinary systems of education have failed, in greater or less degree, to apply. The influence has been felt most where it is most needed. It is like washing; the results are most apparent where it is most required; the need, however, is universal.

A moral movement rests upon a set of pirnciples or rules, which its adherents must recognize, understand, and be prepared to follow. The moral basis of the Scout movement is the Scout law. It may be described as the Boys' Decalogue. No boy can be enrolled as a Scout until he has promised, on his honor, to keep this law.

The following is a brief statement of the law:

1. Honor.—A Scout's honor is to be trusted.

2. Loyalty.—A Scout is loyal to the king and his officers, to his country and to his employers.

3. Helpfulness.—A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.

4. Friendship.—A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs.

5. Courtesy.—A Scout is courteous, especially to women and children.

6. Kindness to Animals.—A Scout is a friend to animals.

7. Obedience.—A Scout obeys the orders of his patrol leader, scoutmaster, and parents, without question.

8. Cheerfulness.—A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances.

9. Thrift.—A Scout is thrifty.

10. Purity.—A Scout is pure in thought, word and deed.

It would occupy too much space to give here a detailed account of the various ways in which the different laws are put into practice. As an example, however, the third law may be taken—"a Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others." When a boy is enrolled as a Scout, he not only promises, in general terms, to keep the Scout law, but he also promises, in more specific terms, to "help other people at all times"; and his instructions include the important one that he is to let no day pass without doing cheerfully, and without reward, a good turn to some one else.

To test the truth of this it is only necessary to ask the first Scout met in the street—somebody who is a complete stranger—to go out of his way to do something, and it will be found that he will not hesitate, excuse himself or refuse. What is more, he will not take a reward for his service. This fact is now so well established in places where Scout troops exist, that it is sometimes difficult to satisfy all the demands upon them for public service. These demands have immensely increased since August, 1914.

At the outbreak of the war the Scouts in all centers were called on to volunteer immediately for certain services pending proper mobilization of the reserve force. These services included watching telegraphs, telephones and railway bridges, and guarding certain sections of the coast. The military and police authorities in all parts of the country were offered and gladly accepted the services of the Scouts within the first few hours of the declaration of the war; and several thousand boys took up their duties, being ready organized in convenient units of eight, equipped with tents and transport, and trained to signaling, patroling, dispatch-riding, and cooking for themselves.

A War Service Badge was instituted for Scouts who performed twenty-eight days' service of three hours a day without reward; and in the first five months over five thousand of these badges were issued. More than fifty thousand Scouts, during the same period, gave their services in government offices, hospitals, relief associations, police stations and other places. In a few cases a small sum has been paid for maintenance; but, generally speaking, the work has been done without pay, because it is a Scout's duty to help all people at all times.

At the firing line in France there is, at the present moment, an ambulance car, provided and manned entirely by Scouts. As the car is getting worn out, the Scouts at home have promised to send another. Now, no Scout is allowed to beg for money, either for his own or any other organization. So the rich Scout must give his own pocket money; the poor boy in employment must give out of his wages; and he who has neither work nor pocket-money must find a job and pay out of his earnings.

Scouts are divided into different classes or ranks. A boy passes from one rank to the other as he becomes more and more proficient. There are no seniority promotions. The tests for promotion are graded in quality and quantity. They are easy enough, in the lower grades, to offer no discouragement to the weak and feeble; they are difficult enough, in the higher ranks, to call for considerable industry, patience and skill.

The lowest rank is that of the Tenderfoot. To attain this, the boy must know the Scout law (moral training), know the composition and history of the Union Jack (history and patriotism), be able to make certain salutes (discipline and smartness), understand a number of secret signs (appeal to his sense and love of mystery), and tie a number of useful knots with rope (pioneering).

The next rank is that of the Second Class Scout. This Scout must be able to bandage a broken limb and to stop bleeding (help to others); to signal either in Morse or Semaphore (quickness of eye and concentration); cook his own dinner over a wood fire laid in the open and lit with not more than two matches (pioneering); put at least sixpence in the bank (thrift); find his way about with a compass (pathfinding); follow a trail half a mile long in twenty-five minutes (observation and deduction); go a mile, walking and running twenty paces alternately, in exactly twelve minutes (judgment and physical exercise).

The First Class Scout has to continue his first-aid work and to learn how to deal with common accidents, such as drowning, runaway horses, and the like. Since the inauguration of the Scout movement the total number of awards for various forms of life-saving has reached just over one thousand. Other First Class tests are—to swim fifty yards; signal at an increased rate of speed; go a journey of fourteen miles on foot and write a report of it; read a map; make a rough sketch-map; find the points of the compass by sun, moon, and stars; cook a number of simple dishes in the open; judge distance, height, area, weight, number and volume within twenty-five per cent. error; increase the bank account to at least one shilling; make something either in wood or metal.

There are still higher ranks than that of the First Class Scout, but this brief account of the course of work up to that rank is sufficient to show how varied is the nature of the work and how many attractions it possesses for the average boy. But this is far from being the whole of the story. When a boy has attained the rank of Second Class Scout he may try to earn one or more Proficiency Badges. Of these there are over fifty. Some of the most important are classified below.

For Public Service. Such badges are given for proficiency as ambulance-helper, fireman and commissioner or sick nurse. The standard of attainment is sometimes quite high. For instance, Albert Edward Bentley, a Scout of the First Cheshunt Troop, joined the army as soon as the war broke out. Towards the end of October, 1914, he